CONTRADICTIONS: ENVISIONING EUROPEAN FUTURES

In many historical moments Europe’s futures have seemed not simply open and uncertain, but replete with contradiction. In the contemporary juncture, the responses both of ordinary Europeans and of the continent’s collective actors and institutions to the challenges posed by crisis again constitute a series of contradictions—many of which reiterate large questions from Europe’s past, while also impinging upon the ability of social forces to imagine possible futures.

Europe is today a space within which the principle of social solidarity appears firmly rooted, yet also one in which the politics of austerity threaten to erode welfare state commitments. It is a context in which supra-national institutions and transnational social connections have progressed far, but also the scene of substantial efforts to reassert nationalism. It is a setting in which many are disenchanted with mainstream politics, yet also challenged by the possible growth of new movements. These and other tensions and contradictions manifest themselves in individual lives, social relations, institutions and collective projects.

Thus, for its 2015 conference, the Council for European Studies (CES) invites proposals for panels, roundtables, book discussions and individual papers that examine such opposing tendencies and, facing forward, consider the many potential futures emerging from the European crisis.

We encourage proposals in the widest range of disciplines, and, in particular, proposals that combine disciplines, nationalities, and generations.

Proposals may be submitted from August 18 to October 10, 2014.

For more information visit our website: www.councilforeuropeanstudies.org